

Message Text

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51

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TAGS: CI, MX, SOCI

SUBJ: HUMAN RIHTS--STORIES PUBLISHED IN MEXICO

REF: SANTIAGO 2773

1. SUMMARY. REACTION TO MEXICAN PRESS PUBLICATION OF CHILEAN PEACE COMMITTEE DOCUMENT ON TORTURE SIMMERING DOWN, BUT ONE MEMBER RESIGNS AND COMMITTEE LAWYER DENIES BEING SOURCE OF LEAK. PDC LEADER SUPPORTS PEACE COMMITTEE WHILE GOC REMAINS SILENT.

2. EXCELSIOR STORY QUOTED IN MERCURIO MAY 18 IDENTIFIED HECTOR VALENZUELA VALDERRAMA AS SOURCE OF COPY OF HABEAS CORPUS PETITION FOR 131 PERSONS SEIZED BY GOC AND SINCE MISSING (SANTIAGO 1743 NOTAL). VALENZUELA IS FORMER PDC CONGRESSMAN AND FORMER PREISIDENT OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. AS ATTORNEY FOR PEACE COMMITTEE, HE SUBMITTED HABEAS CORPUS TO APPEALS COURT. MAY 23 MERCURIO CARRIED LONG LETTER FROM VALENZUELA ACKNOWLEDGING HE GAVE SCHERER COPY OF PETITION, WHICH IS PUBLIC DOCUMENT, BUT WITHOUT ANY OF DETAILS ON CASES WHICH WAS FILED WITH PETITION. IT IS LATTER WHICH COMPRISES MATERIAL USED BY SCHERER.

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VALENZUELA CAREFULLY NOTED HIS RESERVE WITH SCHERER AT TIME, HIS

OPPOSITION TO ALLENDE REGIME, AND CONTINUED INTENTION TO JOIN WITH OTHERS (E.G. PEACE COMMITTEE) TO STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT WITHOUT SUPPORTING CALUMNY AGAINST CHILE.

3. ONLY NEWSPAPER LA SEGUNDA STILL TRYING TO MAKE MUCH OF EXCELSIOR STORIES RESULTING FROM VISIT TO CHILE OF PAPER'S DIRECTOR JULIO SCHERER. ON MAY 23 SEGUNDA PUBLISHED LETTER FROM LUIS POZO BURDILES, SECGEN BAPTISH CONVENTION OF CHILE, ANNOUNCING BURDILES' RESIGNATION FROM PEACE COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT WITH "EXECUTIVES" OF COMMITTEE OVER ITS STRUCTURE AND EFFICIENCY. BURDILES NOT RPT NOT IMPORTANT FIGURE IN COMMITTEE OF COMMUNITY, AND SERVED ON COMMITTEE IN PERSONAL STATUS. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO RPT NO OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE HAVE RESIGNED.

4. PDC IDEOLOGUE AND DEFENSE ATTORNEY IN CURRENT AIR FORCE TRIALS, JAIME CASTILLO, DEFENDED PEACE COMMITTEE MAY 21 IN HIS REGULAR NEWS COMMENTARY ON PDC'S RADIO BALMACEDA. CASTILLO QUOTED VARIOUS JUNTA PRONOUNCEMENTS ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, RECALLED THAT CHARGES OF ABUSE HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST ALL GOVTS INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIONS OF FREI AND ALLENDE, AND EVEN SPECIFICALLY AGAINST CHILEAN MILITARY AND POLICE DURING ALLENDE REGIME. PROPER COURSE WAS NOT RPT NOT POLEMICS OF LA SEGUNDA, BUT CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF SPECIFIC CHARGES AND REFERRAL TO GOC FOR REMEDIAL ACTION, AS PROMISED BY GOC.

5. COMMENT. GOC SEEMS TO BE AVOIDING CONFRONTATION, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC, WITH PEACE COMMITTEE OVER LEAKED DOCUMENTS. AS PEACE COMMITTEE REPRESENTS THE THREE MAJOR FAITHS IN CHILE, IT IS AS UNASSAILABLE AS MOTHERHOOD. JUNTA APPEARS NO MORE WILLING THAN IT HAS BEEN IN PAST FEW MONTHS TO TANGLE DIRECTLY WITH CHURCH (CATHOLIC), OR WITH THE PDC, WHICH HAS SNUGGLED CLOSE TO LATTER'S SKIRTS.

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